

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, August 30, 1999
Volume 35—Number 34
Pages 1655–1667

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Editor's Note: The President was in Martha's Vineyard, MA, on August 27, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

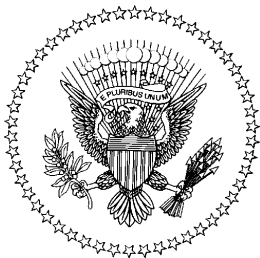
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Week Ending Friday, August 27, 1999

**Remarks at an American Ireland
Fund Dinner in Nantucket,
Massachusetts**

August 20, 1999

Thank you very much. Let me begin by joining others in thanking Bob and Mia for having us in their beautiful, beautiful home and making us all feel at home. I thank Jack and Lyle for their work on the fundraisers and for all the many things they've done for me over many, many years. I thank all the board members of the American Ireland Fund who are here.

And I congratulate you on honoring Tim Russert. You know, most of us who have tried to be professionally Irish—[*laughter*—you know, we get our Irish shtick down, you know. This is about the best I've ever seen. [*Laughter*] And I say it because—it is because it's genuine. You could feel it. You could feel it. His heart was in his remarks. You could see it was yesterday that he was a young man writing that statement for Senator Moynihan.

For the American Irish, which is probably the largest diaspora in the world, the last 30 years of the Troubles have been a source of enormous heartbreak and frustration and sometimes downright disgust—but always, always, love. And I want to thank Tim for his continuing passionate commitment to the principles of peace and equality in Ireland. And I thank you for honoring him.

I also want to thank you more than I can say for honoring Hillary with the proceeds of this fundraiser to Vital Voices. In so many ways in Ireland, we have moved almost in two different worlds in the last 6½ years. And sometimes, I think her world will have more to do with whether peace really takes hold than the one that I have moved in.

The first big decision I had to make was whether to give a visa to Gerry Adams. Remember? [*Applause*] And I was told—here I was, this ardent Anglophile who had spent

2 years in college in England and knew most of the Kings of England in order and all of that sort of stuff, and the Queen—and they said, “Well, if you do this, you will just destroy the special relationship between the United States and Britain.” And I said, “Well, if I don't do it, we're never going to get anybody off the dime over there.”

And so we made it absolutely clear that we would not tolerate terrorism, that this trip could not be used to raise money to buy guns or ammunition, that this was to be a gesture of peace. Well, the rest is history—good, bad, and indifferent, but at least it got us off the dime. And the Irish people have pretty well done the rest. They voted for the Good Friday accords in overwhelming numbers. We had the parliamentary elections following on them. We've had a lot of institutions start.

But let me say that I think one of the things that made all this possible is the American Ireland Fund for the last 20 years. Why? Because all that money you raised and put in there created opportunity after opportunity after opportunity for people, and so they saw there could be a different future.

You know, one of the problems you have if you go into a place like Kosovo now, to get people to quit killing each other and staying in the same old rut—hating people because they're not in their tribe and the way they worship God or their ethnic group—is that they cannot imagine a tomorrow that is different from yesterday and today.

The American Ireland Fund, by just being there, in Ireland and in Northern Ireland for 20 years, you know, the place is booming now, but for most of the last 20 years it was about the poorest country in Europe. And you were there, day-in and day-out, month-in and month-out, year-in and year-out, and I am telling you it made a difference. I know. I've been there. I've been on the streets. I've been in those neighborhoods. I've seen your projects. I've seen the people you've helped.

And so as we move forward, you ought to remember that one of the reasons that the Good Friday accords were overwhelmingly embraced by the people in the Republic and in Northern Ireland, is that they could visualize a different tomorrow. And the American Ireland Fund helped them to do that, and you should be very proud of yourself.

But one of the things that I have learned from the Middle East, from Northern Ireland, from Kosovo and Bosnia, from the tribal wars in Africa I've tried to help deal with, is that in addition to people being able to visualize a different tomorrow, you have to have leaders who can let go.

There was reconciliation in South Africa because Nelson Mandela could let go; and he had a whole lot more to let go of than most of the Irish do. I mean, let's fess up here. [*Laughter*] He had a lot more to let go of than most of the Irish do. But because he could let go, we were able to make peace. And that's why I said what I did about Hillary and the Vital Voices.

We've had some of these women in the White House in the Oval Office. They're very practical. I mean, people that have buried their children. They still get up in the morning and they have to go to the store and buy food, and they have to do this, that, and the other thing—do practical things, and they are enormously practical people. And they have no vested interest in the continuation of the conflict.

And so I say to you that helping these people in Vital Voices will make more than the park that Hillary talked about; there will be lots of parks like that and lots of things that people will do together. And you've got to get these kids out here. You see—if you see kids in Ireland, if you see kids in the Middle East, if you see kids anywhere who get to each other soon enough before they're taught how to hate, they change the whole future.

And the last thing I want to say is this: You all—those of you who are really interested in this, you know what the deal is now. We had a big election, and the Good Friday accord was approved. Then we had elections for Parliament, and they worked. They were honest and they were full and everybody got into the Parliament at Stormont. And I went there and shook hands with them all.

But the agreement that said anybody that got over a certain percentage of vote in the election would also be in the executive branch—and Sinn Fein got enough to get in—the agreement also said that there would be decommissioning that would be finished within 18 months according to a schedule to be set up by the Commission, which now is headed by General de Chastelain, the former Canadian Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

So we're back to that old trust issue because the Unionists don't want Sinn Fein in the executive until they have a symbolic act of decommissioning, and the IRA say, "Well, we don't want to do that until we know we're not going to get snookered." Well, obviously, this is at some level, it almost looks like two kids daring each other to go first.

But if you look beneath that, the IRA say, "Well, it's our people that voted for the peace. We wanted to render our arms to them, not to the other side and have them claim that they got some victory over us; this is a victory that the people together voted for." So this argument goes on endlessly.

Now, let me tell you, the good news is that everybody on all sides agrees to all parts of the Good Friday accords; everybody on all sides agrees that it all has to be done by next May. Nobody wants to get rid of anything else about the agreement, and the only problem we've got left is the sequencing of standing up the executive branch and decommissioning. That is all that will be discussed when Senator Mitchell reconvenes the group on September 6th. And when the Good Friday agreements were reached, it was anticipated that roadblocks might develop, and so they set this up.

So all I would say to all of you is that part of this problem is trust. And at some point, they're going to have to figure out a way that they're both trusting each other at the same time. So you get out of this, "you go first." You know, it's like two kids standing on a big old diving board holding hands and looking down into a deep pool.

Part of it is that, unlike the women that Hillary deals with in Vital Voices, some of these folks have been doing this for so long that their whole identity is caught up in the

continuation of the conflict. I say this in all respect. I'm not attacking them, but it's true.

So what we have to do is to find ways to help them let go. And that's why the work of the American Ireland Fund is still important. Even though the economy is going like crazy—I've talked to Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern about this repeatedly—we have got to target those critical decisionmakers and give them an image of a life they can have that will be meaningful and rich—I don't mean materially rich; I mean it'll have a lot of texture and meaning and standing in the community if they let go.

So thank you for what you've done. Thank you for supporting Vital Voices. The women are doing better than the men now in promoting peace, for the reasons I've said. *[Laughter]* But this deal in September may be our last chance for a generation, and we cannot blow it. It's too late to turn back now, as Mr. Morrison sang. *[Laughter]* It is too late. And so we need the voices. I can look at people in this room that—I know I've been working on this now with many of you for a long time. We have got to help them let go. And you can do it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:25 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Bob and Mia Matthews; event cochairs Jack Manning and Lyle Howland; Tim Russert, Washington bureau chief, NBC News; Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams; former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa; Gen. John de Chastelain, Canadian Defense Forces, member and chair, Independent International Commission on Decommissioning; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and former Senator George J. Mitchell, who chaired the multiparty talks in Ireland. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

August 21, 1999

Good morning. Like many Americans, Hillary and I are fortunate to be spending part of our summer vacation enjoying the splendors of nature—strolling clean, beautiful beaches, breathing the fresh ocean air, watching the stunning sunset—reminding us

that we must do everything we can to preserve this glorious land of ours for generations yet to come.

President Theodore Roosevelt once committed our Nation to leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us. Vice President Gore and I have tried hard to fulfill his vision. We protected the Yellowstone Park from the threat of mining, preserved the red rock canyons of Utah, saved age-old redwoods in California's Headwaters Forest. We launched the most ambitious restoration effort ever in the magnificent Florida Everglades. And we're acting to restore healthy air and pristine skies to our national parks so that future generations can see and enjoy them, just as the first explorers did.

Last year, at my request, Congress approved new funding to protect other precious lands. Today I'm pleased to announce our latest efforts. We've just reach a landmark agreement to protect more than 9,000 acres of critical land next to Yellowstone, another milestone in our effort to preserve the matchless wonders of America's first national park.

Permanently protecting these lands will help to ensure the survival of the bison and other herds that roam the wilds of Yellowstone. And by removing a threat to the underground springs that feed Yellowstone's geysers, we'll ensure that Old Faithful remains faithful for years to come. A hundred years from now, families still will be able to experience the magnificent glory of Yellowstone.

We're also protecting several other natural and historic sites across our country, from ancient ruins in Bandelier National Monument, to the birthplace of Martin Luther King, Jr., to California's spectacular Big Sur coast. We can all be proud of these latest additions to our Nation's endowment. Yet, with more Americans visiting our national parks and forests than ever before, we must do more. Every child deserves a chance to hike in an old-growth forest or wade in a clear, cool stream. And our land is more than a haven for wildlife or a vacation spot; it embodies our very history and our culture.

In too many places, vital pieces of this heritage are disappearing. Once lost, they can't

be replaced. That is why I proposed an historic lands legacy initiative to open the new century with an unprecedented commitment to preserving our most precious lands for all time. First, as part of our balanced budget for the coming year, I proposed a record \$1 billion to protect natural treasures and provide new resources to States and communities to preserve farms, urban parks, wetlands, coastlands, and working forests.

Second, I asked for permanent funding of at least a billion dollars a year to continue these efforts through the coming century. My priorities for the new year include new protections for Civil War battlefields, the Lewis and Clark trail, the Cape Cod National Seashore, and the Pelican Island refuge in Florida, America's first wildlife refuge.

But these priorities are at risk because Congress has approved only a fraction of my request. And while we're taking action to protect our environment and the public health, the Republican leadership's risky tax plan would actually roll back our progress. It would cut funding to our national parks, even threaten to shut some of them down.

Now, throughout this century the stewardship of our lands has not been a partisan issue, it's been a bipartisan cause. In that spirit, I urge Congress to approve my full request for the coming year for the lands legacy initiative, to work with me to create a permanent fund to preserving our lands.

We're indebted to those who safeguarded our natural treasures so that we might enjoy them today, and we owe that same debt to the future. It is our sacred obligation to leave this land a better land for our children and for generations yet to come. Theodore Roosevelt was right, and it's time we all heeded him.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:50 p.m. on August 20 at a private residence in Nantucket, MA, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 21.

Statement on the Earthquake in Turkey

August 21, 1999

On behalf of all Americans, Hillary and I offer our deepest condolences to the loved

ones of those who have lost their lives in this week's devastating earthquake in Turkey. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those affected by this tragedy.

Turkey is our long-time ally, and the people of Turkey are our friends. Now, with many of them in desperate need, we must do all we can to help. And we will. Working with the Turkish Government and other partners, we are already engaged in a broad-ranging assistance effort. Our civilian and military personnel are participating in search and rescue efforts; assessing emergency humanitarian needs; providing medical services; delivering medicines, blankets, and shelter materials; and helping to coordinate overall international aid.

The task ahead is immense. Approximately one million people are sleeping outdoors; clean water is scarce; and the risk of disease is rapidly increasing. I know many Americans will want to help relieve the suffering and restore hope to the people. So I encourage my fellow citizens to give generously to responsible charitable organizations that are supporting relief efforts.

Remarks at a Reception Honoring the First Lady in Nantucket

August 21, 1999

[The President's remarks are joined in progress.]

We met in 1971. I noticed her in a class we were in in law school. And I had just broken up with this girl I was going with. *[Laughter]* And I noticed her in this class, and the reason I noticed her in this class, to be honest, is that she attended it less frequently than I had. *[Laughter]* And she was an interesting, compelling looking woman, so I followed her out of this class. And I got right behind her and I said, "No, this is nothing but trouble." And I turned around and I walked off, didn't say a word to her.

And then I kind of stalked her around the law school for 2 or 3 weeks, and I'd get up and I'd say, "No, this is nothing but trouble," and I would walk off. *[Laughter]* So one night I was in the Yale Law School library—now, any of you who have ever seen it, it's a big sort of long, gothic room. It's a skinny, long

room. I'm at one end; Hillary is at the other. And there was a guy—I still remember this guy's name; his name was Jeff Glekel—trying to talk me into joining the law journal.

And I said—and it was one of these affirmative action things; he wanted a token guy with an accent. *[Laughter]* And so he wanted some redneck on the law journal at Yale. You know, it seemed like it would be a good thing. And I kept telling him I didn't want to be on the law journal because I was going home to Arkansas to live and what the hell did I need to be on the law journal. *[Laughter]* And all the time I'm staring at Hillary who is at the other end of the room, with a book.

So in the middle of this guy's passionate entreaty for me to join the law journal, Hillary slams down the book, and she walks across the library, and she looks at me and says, "Look, you have been staring at me for weeks, and I've been staring back. So at least we ought to know each other's name. I'm Hillary Rodham. What's your name?" I couldn't remember my name. *[Laughter]*

Now, question number one, this woman has initiative—good in a Senator.

The second thing I want to tell you is this: In 1973, after we had gone together for 2 years and we were very much in love, I was very ambivalent about Hillary coming home to Arkansas. She actually moved to Massachusetts for a while to work for the Children's Defense Fund. And I wanted her to go to New York or go home to Chicago because I thought she had such enormous potential for public service—I didn't want her to, of course, I wanted her to go with me. But I was so afraid I was, in effect, taking away from her life and from this country the most gifted person I had ever known up to that time.

Well, over 25 years later, I still haven't met anybody I thought was as gifted. And in 1993, when we moved to the White House, I said, "I want you to decide where you want to go and what you want to do when we get out of here. For 20 years we've gone where I wanted to go and done what I wanted to do, and I'll give you the next 20 years. And if I'm still alive after that, we'll fight over the rest." *[Laughter]*

And so all she is really doing today is what I thought for the benefit of the country and

for the development of her own potential for service maybe she should have been able to do in 1973. I'm very glad she didn't do it then, and very glad she is doing it today.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:10 p.m. at a private residence. The press release issued by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening remarks of the President. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Proposed Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation

August 23, 1999

Protecting the health of America's families is not and should never be a partisan issue. Demonstrating this fact, the American Medical Association, the largest organization of physicians in the Nation, has just endorsed the bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights sponsored by Congressman Norwood and Congressman Dingell.

The AMA's action sends a strong message to Congress that it is time to put politics aside and pass a Patients' Bill of Rights that provides meaningful protections for all Americans in all health plans and holds plans accountable when their actions cause harm to patients. With over 20 House Republicans cosponsoring the Norwood-Dingell bill, it is clear that a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives is ready to vote for a strong and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights.

The bipartisan Norwood-Dingell coalition has placed the needs of patients over the desires of special interests. It is long past time for the entire Congress to follow suit. I reiterate my call to Speaker Hastert to schedule a vote on this important legislation immediately upon return from the congressional recess in September.

NOTE: A portion of the President's statement was made available on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line.

**Remarks at a Fundraiser for
Martha's Vineyard Hospital in
Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts
August 23, 1999**

Thank you very much, Dr. Sullivan and Mike. I feel like I was in pretty distinguished company tonight with them up here. I admire them both very much. Lou Sullivan was an outstanding Secretary of Health and Human Services, a great advocate in our Nation's struggle against AIDS, and one thing I particularly appreciated, one of the early strong voices in our efforts to protect our children from the dangers of teen smoking. And I thank you for all you did there and for what you're doing here.

I have always admired Mike Wallace. I like him more when he's boring in on someone besides me. *[Laughter]* But I want to tell you that he made a profoundly moving presentation recently at Tipper Gore's National Conference on Mental Health, which we helped to put together and which is something Hillary and I care a lot about. And I think we are moving to the point in our country where we see mental health problems like other health problems. And when that day arrives, it will be in no small measure because Mike Wallace had the courage to speak out about it. And I thank him for that as well. *[Applause]* Thank you.

Now, I want to say again, although Mike already alluded to it, I'm sorry Hillary is not here, but she is a little under the weather. And I want her to get well because she has a rigorous schedule ahead of her. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Congressman Delahunt for being here, and the other elected officials, and all the members of the hospital board and the people here at Farm Neck who have been so kind to me over the years.

I would like to say a few things in a very straightforward way about this issue before you tonight. I spent a lot of my life trying to keep hospitals open that serve small populations. And this hospital is an interesting situation because, as Dr. Sullivan said, there are 14,000 year-round residents here and then up to 10 times that many here on any given day in the summertime. So, for most of the year, it's a small rural hospital in a county in Massachusetts that doesn't have a

particularly high per capita income, where, according to the information I've been given, 20 percent of the people have no health insurance. And then there's the summer and all the rest of us who are reasonably blessed in life, or we wouldn't be able to afford to come to Martha's Vineyard in the summertime. *[Laughter]* And we all want it to stay open and to do well.

And most of us, when we come here, come here because we don't want to think about anything except maybe walking on the beach or taking a sail or fighting our limitations out on this golf course, or whatever. *[Laughter]* We don't want to think about anything else—unless, like Mike, we get kidney stones or something else happens to us. But the people who run the hospital and the people who work at the hospital, they have to deal with the economics of modern health care, with the dilemma of the population base, and with the fact that—you know, they're there all the time. They deliver babies; they perform emergency surgery; they take care of the elderly people year round. They do things that need doing.

And there's not a person under this tent tonight that might not need this hospital sometime. Now, the plain fact is that, given the economics of modern medical care, I know there's—I don't want to get into all the things that have been in the paper about this—I'm not sure George Soros, Bob Rubin, and Alan Greenspan together could make this thing pay every month, every year, unless people like you are willing to help keep it open.

Now, of course, everything should be run as well as possible. But I'm telling you, I've been dealing with this for 20 years now, and I've kept some hospitals open when I was a Governor of a rural State, and I've seen some close. I've won some, and I've lost some. And let me just give you a couple of things to think about.

First of all, this hospital serves a county here on Martha's Vineyard that has 20 percent uninsured. I'll bet you anything—and I know that there is a health access coalition working on this, but I'll bet you anything that there are children on this island who are eligible for the CHIP program—the Children's Health Insurance Program—that was one of

the signal accomplishments of the bipartisan Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which provided funds for up to 5 million of the 10 million uninsured children in this country to have health insurance—which means payments to the hospital when they go there. And so far, even though the enrollments have really picked up, this is the first full year when all the States have had their programs in place. Only about one and a half million of those children have been enrolled, a little over one and a half million. And I'll bet anything some of them who haven't are here.

The second thing I'd like to say is, I bet a lot of the working families here, who work for very modest wages, especially in the off-season, or the farmers who have very limited incomes, their children, and maybe even the adults who are working, could be eligible for Medicaid, depending on what the Massachusetts rules are.

The third thing I would like to suggest is that—in Tennessee, the legislature provided an opportunity for working people who had no health insurance to actually buy into the Medicaid program. I'm embarrassed to tell you I don't know what options exist in Massachusetts for that, but we gave them permission to do it in Tennessee because they devised a way to show that they could do it on the allocation of Federal money they had, and we could do it here as well if it's not being done.

So we need to look to see what kinds of other ways we can infuse cash into the situation. But, as Mike said when we started, one of the things we need to remember is that we all need health care. And when you show up at the hospital, they don't ask for your party registration. That's why we're trying so hard to pass the Patients' Bill of Rights down in Washington. Everybody from the AMA to the nurses groups to virtually every health provider in the country is for it—because we recognize this is something that ought to unite us as a people.

Now, it is a challenge when you have small populations and you want high quality care and you want it there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, whether there are 100,000 or 14,000 people here. But I'd like to say there are a lot of people who aren't here tonight on this island who make all of

our lives better. There are a lot of wonderful people who live here and work here year round, and who would never be able, themselves, to afford the kind of vacations that all of us take every year and take for granted. And they deserve good health care, too.

So I am very, very grateful to you. If there is anything else I can do, Dr. Sullivan, and anybody else here on the board, to try to explore what else we can do to enroll more people in covered programs that we maybe affect the income stream here, I'd be happy to do it. I will do what I can to help. I'm proud of you for being here. But what I'd like to say to you is, I think you ought to be prepared to come next year, too. *[Laughter]*

You know, folks, I've raised a lot of money in my life, and I'm not running for anything. *[Laughter]* So I can spend the rest of my life raising money for causes like this, which I like very well. But I say that because—based on 20 years of hard work.

Again, I hope the island and the community and all of you can unite behind this hospital. But I know—and I will do everything I can to help explore what else can be done here. But you need to make a long-term commitment—if this community wants this hospital—that it is something worth paying for, because you never know when you'll need it, and you certainly know that good people need it and access it every single day.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:16 p.m. at the Farm Neck Golf Club. In his remarks, he referred to journalist Mike Wallace; philanthropist George Soros; and former Secretary of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin. The President also referred to AMA, the American Medical Association.

Proclamation 7215—Women's Equality Day, 1999

August 24, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The theme for America's celebration of the coming millennium is "honor the past—

imagine the future," a theme that could also describe our annual observance of Women's Equality Day. On this special day, we honor the past by remembering the decades-long struggle of visionary and determined women and men who fought for women's suffrage. Seventy-nine years ago, their efforts were rewarded with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote and moved our Nation forward on the path toward equal civil and political rights for all Americans.

This year we also mark the 35th anniversary of another hard-fought victory for women's equality: the enactment of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which—among other things—prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of gender. Title VII guarantees women equal access to jobs, promotions, pay, and benefits, empowering them to provide for themselves and their families and to achieve their highest aspirations. This historic legislation benefits our entire Nation by strengthening America's workforce and economy through the contributions of millions of Americans whose talents in the past had too often been ignored or excluded.

We also celebrate Women's Equality Day by imagining the future—a future where women will receive equal pay for equal work, where our social structures will help women and men to balance better the responsibilities of job and family, where there will be no ceilings to prevent women from rising as far and as fast as their talents will take them. Such a future seems possible when we reflect on the extraordinary feats women have achieved this summer alone. The entire world was captivated by the energy, skill, teamwork, and determination of the women soccer players from around the globe who competed in the Women's World Cup; and all America rejoiced when the U.S. team won a breathtaking victory. Just 13 days later, Air Force Colonel Eileen Collins, commander of Space Shuttle Mission STS-93, became the first woman to command a mission in space.

With a rich past, an exciting present, and a future of limitless possibilities, women have much to celebrate on this Women's Equality Day, and all Americans have much to be grateful for as we reflect on the countless

contributions women make to the quality of our lives and the well-being of our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 1999, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the citizens of our great Nation to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 26, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 25, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 27.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iraq

August 24, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 25.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Iraq's
Weapons of Mass Destruction
Programs**

August 24, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 585(c) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999, as contained in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999 (Public Law 105-277) (the "Act"), I hereby transmit a report concerning Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs.

The report is comprised of three sections that provide the information required by section 585(c) of the Act, to the extent that such information is available: assessment of Iraq's nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction programs and its efforts to move toward procurement of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver weapons of mass destruction; assessment of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) action team reports, and other IAEA efforts to monitor the extent and nature of Iraq's nuclear program; and an opinion on the value of maintaining the ongoing inspection regime rather than replacing it with a passive monitoring system.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 25.

**Statement on the Counterdrug
Operations at Miami International
Airport**

August 25, 1999

I want to congratulate law enforcement officials for the successful counterdrug operations that resulted today in numerous indictments for violations of our Federal drug laws. This joint initiative required the hard work of the DEA, U.S. Customs Service, ATF, and local law enforcement agencies. It is a product of our shared determination to shield American borders from the drug threat. The

efforts of this team show that by working together, we can reduce the flow of drugs into our Nation and fight drug-related crime and violence. From the recent decline in youth drug use, to the law enforcement success of today's investigations, our balanced and comprehensive national antidrug strategy is producing real results for the American people.

**Proclamation 7216—Minority
Enterprise Development Week, 1999**
August 25, 1999

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, America's minority entrepreneurs have contributed to the strength of our economy and the quality of our national life. In the 18th and 19th centuries, as farmers and fur traders, shipwrights and sea captains, barbers and bankers, they forged better lives for themselves, their families, and their neighbors. Often facing prejudice and discrimination, they nonetheless succeeded in creating businesses that energized their communities and helped to build a dynamic new society.

Today, minority business owners are branching out from predominantly retail and service industries into the fields of manufacturing, transportation, construction, energy, and technology, helping to power the longest peacetime economic expansion in our Nation's history. Producing goods and services that generate new jobs and spur investment, minority business owners have played a vital role in building an economy with nearly 19 million new jobs, wages rising at twice the rate of inflation, and the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since 1957.

All Americans can be proud that we have eliminated many of the obstacles that in the past hindered minority entrepreneurs from contributing the full value of their talents to our society. However, while many minority business owners are enjoying success, many still face barriers that keep them from competing on a level playing field. We must continue to build on the combined efforts of the private sector and government to ensure that

minority-owned businesses have access to the capital, customers, and services that will enable them to succeed in high technology and other rapidly growing sectors.

Through my Administration's New Markets Initiative, we are building partnerships between business and government to encourage investments in areas that have not attracted investments in the past: inner cities, rural regions, and Indian reservations. We are striving to ensure that our Nation's economic expansion—which has benefited millions of Americans—will reach people who have been left behind for decades.

We are also working to help minority-owned firms harness the enormous power of the Internet. The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) at the Department of Commerce, together with the Small Business Administration (SBA), provide minority-owned businesses with the tools they need to succeed in the Information Age. These efforts range from interactive educational courses on the fundamentals of E-commerce to the creation of Phoenix-Opportunity, an automatic electronic bid-matching system that notifies firms of opportunities through the Internet. Similarly, SBA's Pro-Net system provides contracting officers and small and minority-owned businesses with an electronic gateway to procurement opportunities and information.

During Minority Enterprise Development Week, as we honor the many minority businessmen and women whose energy, spirit, and creativity have strengthened our economy and enriched our country, let us rededicate ourselves to nurturing the dreams and talents of all Americans and to realizing the limitless possibilities of our free enterprise system.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 19 through September 25, 1999, as Minority Enterprise Development Week, and I call on all Americans to join together with minority business entrepreneurs across the country in appropriate observances.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of August, in

the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 27, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 26, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 30.

Proclamation 7217—Small Manufacturing Week, 1999

August 25, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's free enterprise system is continually energized by the skill, vision, and exceptional performance of our Nation's small manufacturers—those who employ fewer than 500 employees. Though small in size, these companies make enormous contributions to our economy and provide our society and the world with high-quality manufactured goods. More important, small manufacturers are a vital source of new jobs—almost 1 million between 1992 and 1996—and provide a livelihood for nearly 12 million Americans.

We live in an age dominated by information and technology, where the global marketplace grows ever more complex and interdependent. As large manufacturers expand their reliance on smaller firms for parts and services, the performance of small manufacturers becomes increasingly important to the competitiveness of America's manufacturing sector.

My Administration, working with the Congress and State governments, has strived to ensure that these small firms have access to the resources, technology, expertise, and training they need to realize their highest potential. By passing two consecutive balanced budgets and signing into law the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, we have helped to reduce interest rates, ease the tax burden on small firms, and encourage investment and growth.

The Small Business Administration, through its vigorous lending and loan guaranty efforts, has improved access to capital so that small manufacturing firms and other small businesses can modernize, expand, and invest in worker training.

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) of the Department of Commerce, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, gives small manufacturers a solid foundation on which to build innovative ideas and products. With a network of more than 70 nonprofit centers, the MEP serves small manufacturers in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, providing access to the newest technology, manufacturing processes, and business practices. The MEP's local centers offer personalized guidance to manufacturers on issues ranging from business to technology solutions. And because these centers are linked together through the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology, even the smallest manufacturing firms can enjoy instant access to the most advanced national resources.

Most important, we are continuing to invest in education and training to give America's working men and women the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the jobs of the 21st century. The Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which I was pleased to sign into law last year, provides skill grants directly to workers so they can choose the kind of training they want and where they want to obtain it.

As we observe Small Manufacturing Week, let us pay tribute to America's more than 385,000 small manufacturing firms whose commitment to hard work and excellence has helped set our country on a steady course for continued growth and prosperity.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 19 through September 25, 1999, as Small Manufacturing Week, 1999. I invite all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that recognize the achievements of our Nation's small manufacturers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 27, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 26, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 30.

Proclamation 7218—America Goes Back to School, 1999

August 27, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Education has always been at the heart of opportunity in America. It opens doors for our young people, gives them the tools they need to succeed, and instills in them a sense of responsibility as they strive to make the most of their lives. However, while the importance of education is unchanging, the challenges facing America's schools and students are not. There are now more children, from more diverse backgrounds, in our public schools than at any time in our country's history. We must ensure that their education gives them the knowledge and skills they need to help our Nation thrive in the new century.

America's current prosperity offers us an unprecedented opportunity to invest in our children's education. I am proud that we have begun that task by opening the doors of college to all our young people with tax credits and more affordable student loans, more Pell grants and work-study jobs, education IRAs, and the new HOPE Scholarship tax cut that more than 5 million Americans will have received by the end of this year. I have also announced \$43 million in grants to help States and communities to recruit talented people into teaching jobs and improve the quality of teaching nationwide.

These are important accomplishments, but we must build on them. The goal of the America Goes Back to School initiative is to support family and community involvement in childhood learning and to build strong community support for our schools, teachers, and students.

This year's theme—"Challenge Our Students and They Will Soar"—reflects our faith in America's youth and our commitment to providing them with the tools they need to succeed in our rapidly changing world. We must turn around failing schools, hold States and school districts accountable for helping all children reach high academic standards, support charter schools and other forms of public school choice, expand after-school and summer programs, develop pathways to college and careers, and provide safe, drug-free schools for all our children. We must ensure that all our students have access to computers and that every classroom and library is connected to the Internet. If we want our children to compete at a world-class level, they must have modern, world-class schools. I am therefore challenging the Congress to enact my proposals to build and modernize 6,000 public schools; and I am also asking the Congress to continue funding to hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades, the years that we know—intuitively and through research—are critical to the development of children's learning and thinking skills.

My Administration is working hard to improve our Nation's education system, but no government effort can replace the vision, encouragement, and dedication of our families and communities. As America's students go back to school this year, let us pledge to provide every child with a safe and supportive environment in which to learn and grow, and let us ensure that every segment of our society is involved in the effort. Let us also resolve that our young people will return to schools that are genuine places of learning, where they receive the care, attention, and education they need to reach their full potential.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United

States, do hereby proclaim August 29 through September 11, 1999, as a time when America Goes Back to School. I encourage parents, schools, community and State leaders, businesses, civic and religious organizations, and the people of the United States to observe this period with appropriate ceremonies and activities expressing support for high academic standards and promoting family and community involvement in providing a quality education for every child.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 30, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 31.

**Executive Order 13135—
Amendment to Executive Order
12216, President's Committee on the
International Labor Organization**

August 27, 1999

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 12216 is amended as follows: The second sentence of section 1-101 is amended by substituting "the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Presidents of . . ." for "and the Presidents of . . .".

William J. Clinton

The White House,
August 27, 1999.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 30, 1999]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 31.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 21

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Martha's Vineyard, MA, to Nantucket, MA. In the evening, they returned to Martha's Vineyard.

The President had a telephone conversation with Senator Strom Thurmond concerning Mr. Thurmond's release from the hospital.

August 22

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding caused by Hurricane Bret beginning August 21 and continuing.

August 24

The President announced his intention to nominate Willene A. Johnson to be U.S. Executive Director of the African Development Bank.

August 26

The President declared a major disaster in Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe ice storms, flooding, and heavy rains beginning March 1 and continuing through May 30.

Released August 27

The White House announced that the President announced that former U.S. Representative Harry Johnston has been named as Special Envoy for Sudan.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Fact sheet: U.S. Humanitarian Relief Efforts for Turkey Earthquake Victims

Released August 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released August 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released August 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Statement by the Press Secretary: National Security Staff Realignment

Released August 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Statement by the Press Secretary: Appointment of Special Envoy for Sudan

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.
